meet the following criteria to allot the dealership/distributorship:

1. Nationality	—	Indian
2. Age	—	Minimum 21 yrs. Maximum 60 Yrs.
3. Educational Qualifications	—	Matriculation or recognised equivalent.
4. Residence	—	Resident of the district of the advertiused location and adjoining districts (as mentioned in the advertisement) in the same State.
5. Income	—	Gross income of the candidate should not exceed Rs. 2 lakhs per annum

6. *Multple Dealership Norms:*

No person shall be awarded a new dealership/distributorship if he/she and any of his/her following close relatives (including step relatives) already hold (s) a Letter of Intent or a dealership/distributorship of MS/HSD/SKO-LDO/LPG of any Public Sector Oil Company.

(i) Spouse

(ii) Father/Mother (Not applicable to daughters)

(iii) Brother - Brother's Wife (Not applicable for women applicants)

(iv) Son/Daughter-in-law.

During 1995-96, 1996-97, 1996-97 and 1997-98, 162 retail outlets and 95 LPG distributorships were allotted to SC - ST candidates.

In addition to the locations pending from previous marketing plans, a total of 124 retail outlet dealerships and 455 LPG distributorships have been included in the approved RO & LPG Marketing Plans 1996-98 for SCs/STs category. It generally takes about 1-2 years for commissioning of dealership/distributorship from the date of advertisement.

Setting up LPG Plants

2733. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG plants set up by Government in Public/Private Joint Sector during the Eigth Plan period indicating location of each plant State-wise, cost-wise, company-wise, capacity-wise, actual production-wise, etc.,

(b) the number of new LPG plants Government have proposed/decided to set up during the Ninth Plan period indicating details thereof as above, and

(c) whether Government propose to set up a review committee to assess supply and demand position area-wise, idle capacity of LPG plants reported at Sawai Madhopur, Farukabad, Ajmer or elsewhere to avoid infructuous average expenditure of Rs. 34-40 crores per plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Under the VIII Five year plan, additional capacity of 1120 TMTPA was proposed to be set up by Public Sector Oil Companies, with bottling plants at 54 locations in the Country.

(b) Under the IX Plan, it is proposed to construct 135 new bottling plants all over the country which will result in additional capacity of 3106 TMTPA.

(c) There is no proposal to set up a review committee to assess the supply and demand position area-wise as well as idle capacity of any of the LPG bottling plants. To prevent backlogs and to meet the heavier demand of coming years, it is necessary to create adequate bottling capacity in all the areas of the country.

Formulation of Agency as Petronet

2734. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formed an agency known as 'Petronet';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this agency will start LNG terminal in Gujarat and Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) With the approval of the Government, a Joint Venture Company namely Petronet LNG Ltd. has been formed with equity participation of upto 50% by GAIL, LOCL, ONGC and BPCL while the balance is to be offered to financial institutions, private parties etc. Petronet LNG Ltd. will establish LNG Terminals at Dahet (Gujarat) of 5 Million Tonnes Per Annum capacity and at Cochin (Kerala) of 2.5 Million Tonnes Per Annum capacity.

Appointment of Member of Board of Directors

2735. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether director level officers have been appointed as Members of the Board of Directors in the National Oil Giants; and

(b) whether it has normally been the practice to have only Joint Secretary level officers on the Board of large Public Sector Enterprises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b): Director level officers have been appointed as members on the Board of Directors in the oil PSUs in addition to the Additional Secretary/Joint Secretaries, having regard to the need for restricting the number of Directorships evenly in the Ministry and taking into account the guidelines of the Department of Public Enterprises dated 16th March, 1992.

Production of crude Oil and Gas

2736. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of crude oil and gas in the country during this year;

(b) whether there is any marginal increase/decrease over that of last year;

(c) what steps are being taken to increase the indigenous production of crude oil gas in the country;

(d) whether any new seismic studies have been undertaken to find new oil/gas locations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The production of crude oil and gas during the period April-October in the year 1997-98 and 1998-99 was as under:

	Crude oil (MMT)	Natural Gas (MCM)
1997-98 (April-Oct.)	19.78	14830
1998-99 (April-Oct.)	19.05	15620

(c) Steps being taken to increase the production of crude oil and Natural gas are:—

(i) 3 D seismic survey for better understanding of the oil fields especially to identify the undrained/by passed oil

(ii) Rectificatory measures for Bombay High and Neelam Oil Fields.